



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

July 10, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors and Authorizers

FROM: Joseph A. Martineau, Ph. D. *JAM*
Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services

SUBJECT: Clarification on Student Assessment for 2014-15

In late June, Michigan's School Aid budget, set to take effect Oct. 1, was signed that requires a "new MEAP" to be developed and administered for the 2014-15 School Year. There seems to be some confusion with the language included in this budget as it relates to using the same name – MEAP – but meeting our current state standards, which is not something the "old" MEAP did. There have been reports suggesting the state is returning to the old test and that teachers now are rewriting lesson plans in an attempt to be ready for next year's assessment.

To be clear, Michigan is still moving forward with a more rigorous assessment measuring our state standards in Spring 2015. It will be an online assessment and also provide for a paper/pencil option, when necessary. It will be a one-year only assessment as the budget language also includes a requirement for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to put out a Request For Proposal on September 1, 2014 to determine our future assessment beginning in the 2015-16 school year.

The MDE's guidance to local educators and administrators: Teachers and school staff should continue with the lesson plans they have been preparing over the past few years, to ready students for a more rigorous assessment that will measure Michigan's current standards.

Questions regarding this communication may be directed to 877-560-8378 or baa@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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